



**Understanding and
refining search results**
Processes and functions

Overview

Search results page



Changing results view

The results from searching or browsing always show four tabs which give you the choice of how you would like to display the results. The default tab can differ depending on the search results, but all four display modes are always available.

Refine search by

The **Refine search by** section allows you to further refine your results by selecting a year level – useful mainly for learning objects and collections – or a resource type.

Select the desired year level and/or resource type(s), then select **Refine search** at the bottom of the box. The search will be conducted *within* the current search results, narrowing down the number of items returned.

Refine search by topic

The **Refine search by topic** section suggests a list of topics related to the search results, with the number of related items displayed beside each topic.

Selecting a related topic restricts the results to items also related to that topic.

The screenshot shows the Scootle search results page for the query 'foxes'. The page includes a top navigation bar with links like Home, Advanced search, Find by learning area, Find on map, Find on timeline, A to Z, and Learning paths. A search bar at the top shows the query 'foxes' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'View as gallery', 'View as list' (selected), 'View on map', and 'View on timeline'. The main content area displays search results for 'foxes', showing 97 results. The first result is 'Controlling foxes, 2000', which is a video clip about fox populations. The second result is 'The night of the bilby: get home alive', which is a learning object about desert environments. The third result is 'The night of the bilby: find food', which is another learning object about desert environments. On the left side of the page, there are two sections for refining search results: 'Refine search by' and 'Refine search by topic'. The 'Refine search by' section allows users to select year levels (P-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12) and resource types (All types, Learning objects, Image, Audio, Video, Collections, Teacher resource, Assessment resource). The 'Refine search by topic' section suggests related topics like 'Canines [5]', 'Feral animals [2]', 'Introduced species [2]', and 'Small game hunting [1]'. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text '© Education Services Australia 2010 Ltd. (except where otherwise indicated)'.

RSS

If you use an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) reader, you can use this function to monitor the search results in a news reader application, or link to the search results from another website.

CSV

Selecting this icon allows you to download search results in a CSV (Comma-separated Values) file, which can be viewed in a spreadsheet application such as Excel or Numbers.

Refining the results

After your results have been generated you may further refine your search in a number of ways. You can add extra keywords and choose a topic or subtopic for your searching using the **Search for** field and drop-down list.

As you refine your search the search box and topic drop-down change to reflect your current keywords and subtopics. At the same time, breadcrumbs (hierarchical topics) are generated.

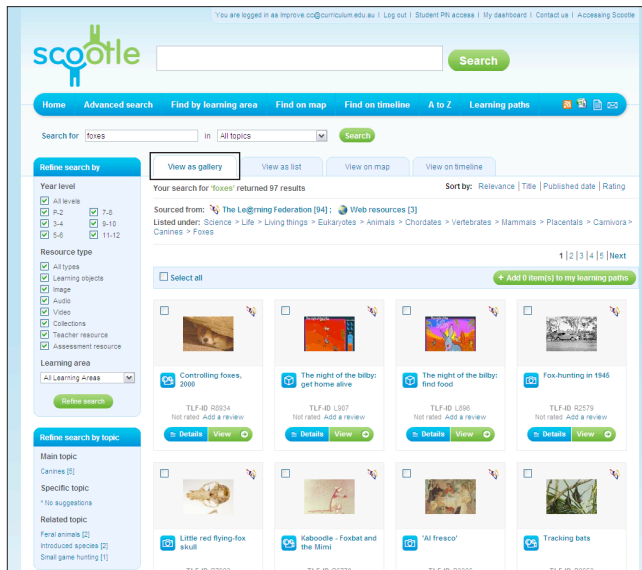
Sorting the results

Results can be sorted according to relevance, title (alphabetically), published date or rating.

How to Change the search results view



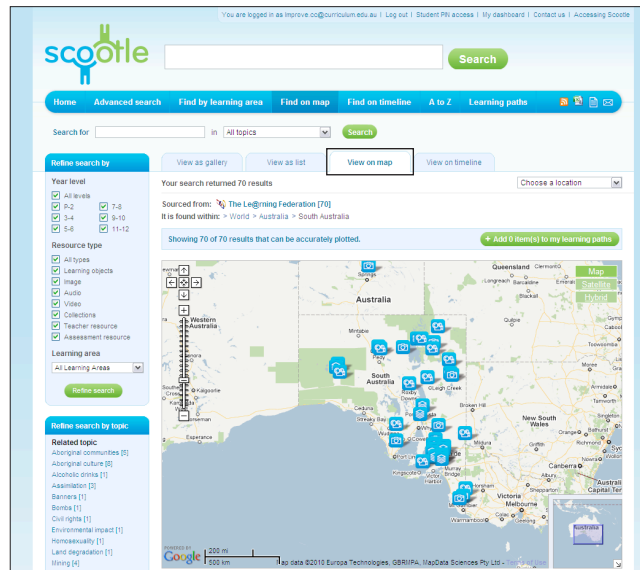
Alternative option 1 View as gallery



Most search and browse results default to displaying the results as a list, as depicted on the previous page.

However, choosing the **View as gallery** tab displays search results as thumbnail images.

Alternative option 2 View on map



Choosing the **View on map** tab displays search results on a map. Select the icons to preview the underlying content.

Not all learning content is tagged against a specific location, so this view will display fewer results than the **View as list** and **View as gallery** tabs.

Alternative option 3 View on timeline



Choosing the **View on timeline** tab for a set of search results will show those items on a scrollable timeline.

Select the icons to preview the content. Click and drag left or right to view more of the timeline.

Not all learning content is tagged against a specific time, so this view will display fewer results than the **View as list** and **View as gallery** tabs.

Overview

Search result display



Each search result has a consistent format, whether it is part of **View as list** or **View as gallery**, or a preview in **View on map** or **View on timeline**.

Content icon and content title
The title of the item appears next to an icon describing the type of learning content. Selecting the title takes you to the details page of that content.

Learning path tick box
Select this tick box to add the item to a learning path.

Description
Each search result displays a short description of the digital curriculum resource. For more detailed information select the **Details** button to the right.

Source
This icon indicates that the source of the content is the National Digital Learning Resource Network (previously The Learning Federation). A web resource icon may appear instead, as shown in the inset on the right.

Details and View
View opens the learning content in a new window or tab in the browser. **Details** takes you to the details page for the content.

Learning area, year level, publication date, ID and rating
Beside the content is a section displaying the learning area, year level, publication date, ID and rating of the content. (The learning area and year level values only appear for learning objects and collections.)

The item in this example has not yet been rated. Ratings are generated by users of Scootle, and are displayed as a number of stars.

Controlling foxes, 2000
This is a colour clip about controlling fox populations. It begins with a close-up of the face of a European red fox ('Vulpes vulpes') hiding under a log. The clip shows a fox running across a paddock towards a dead sheep. It shows a trapped fox being captured; and later, scientists taking a swab from a trapped fox's mouth. The clip also shows scientists in a laboratory developing a contraceptive vaccine, and a scientist explaining how the vaccine would work. (Classification - Phylum: Chordata; Class: Mammalia; Order: Carnivora; Family: Canidae.)

The night of the bilby: get home alive
Look at a desert environment where bilbies and other animals live. Help bilbies to gather food such as seeds, bulbs and spiders. Avoid being eaten by predators such as cats and foxes. Find enough food before the night ends. Then find a burrow to shelter in. Notice that rabbits compete for the same resources as bilbies. This learning object is one in a series of three objects.

The night of the bilby: find food
Look at a desert environment where bilbies and other animals live. Listen to a description of the habitat. Help bilbies to gather food such as seeds, bulbs and spiders. Avoid being eaten by predators such as cats and foxes. Find enough food before the night ends. Then find a burrow to shelter in. Notice that rabbits compete for the same resources as bilbies. This learning object is one in a series of three objects.

Learning areas: Science
Year levels: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12
Published: 26/10/2009
TLF-ID: R8934
Not rated

Details View

Learning areas: Studies of society and environment; Science
Year levels: 3; 4
Published: 27/03/2008
TLF-ID: L907
Not rated

Details View

Learning areas: Studies of society and environment; Science
Year levels: 0; 1; 2
Published: 27/03/2008
TLF-ID: L896
Not rated